

OCT 10 2006

Application No. 10/785,270
Amendment dated
Reply to Office Action of July 10, 2006

Docket No.: 66022-0030

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed July 10, 2006, and thank Examiner Chen for the indication of allowable subject matter and his detailed review of the pending claims. In response to the Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 2-4, 9, 11, 12, 14, 22, 25, 26, and 34-36. Applicants have also canceled claims 1, 8, 15-16, 20-21, 23-24, 29-33, and 40-45 without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 46-50 have been added. However, by way of this amendment, no new matter has been added. At least for the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing rejections. Further, Applicants believe that there are also reasons other than those set forth below why the pending claims are patentable, and reserves the right to set forth those reasons, and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 8, 9, 10, 11, 16-19, 33 and 34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant has rewritten claim 8 as new independent claim 46. Claims 9-11 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from now allowable claim 46. Claims 2-7 and 12-14 have also been amended to depend directly or indirectly from now allowable claim 46.

Applicant has also rewritten claim 16 as new independent claim 48 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Claims 17-19 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from now allowable claim 48.

The Examiner also indicated that Claims 21, 22, and 24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with the

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Examiner's suggestion, the Applicant has rewritten claim 21 as new claim 47 and has further addressed the 112 issues. Claims 22 and 25 have also been amended to depend from new claim 47.

Claim 24 was rewritten as new claim 48, and the 112 issues were also addressed.

The Examiner also indicated that Claims 26-28 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in the Office Action. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, Applicant has amended claim 26 to correct the 112 issues.

The Examiner also indicated that Claims 33 and 34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten claim 33 as new claim 50. Claim 34 has been amended to depend from new claim 50. Similarly, claims 34-39 have been amended to depend either directly or indirectly from new claim 50.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 11, 2-25, 26-28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As indicated above, Applicant has addressed the 112 issues. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 20, 25, 29, 30, 36, 37, 39, 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fox (U.S. Patent No. 1,778,666). While Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's position, Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is believed that the claims rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 are now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12, 13, 14, 15, 23, 35, 38, 40, and 42-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fox (U.S. Patent No. 1,778,666). While Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's

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position, Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is believed that the claims rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 are now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. 66022-0030 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw. To the extent necessary, a petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made, the fee for which should be charged to such deposit account number.

Dated: October 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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